

Stations

Minehead - Second hand book shop • Signal box Turntable • Water towers • Pay and Display car park Seaside town with sandy beach and harbour • Start of the South West Coast Path • TA24 5BG

Dunster - Railwayana • Goods Yard • 20 minute walk to medieval village with Dunster Castle and Watermill (NT) • Yarn Market • TA24 6PJ

Blue Anchor - Traditional gated level crossing Signal box • Sandy beach • WSRHT Museum TA24 6LG

Washford - Goods yard • Nearby Cleeve Abbey (English Heritage), Torre Cider Farm • Footpath along Old Mineral Line site • TA23 0PP

Watchet - Harbour town with Marina • Boat and Town museums • Mineral Line footpath • TA23 0AU

Doniford Halt - Request Stop • Nearby Doniford Farm Park • Fossil beach • TA23 0TQ

Williton - Signal box • Home of DEPG and West Somerset Restoration workshop • TA4 4RQ

Stogumber - Tea Garden • Nearby quiet Village • Country walks • TA4 3TR

Crowcombe Heathfield - Highest Station • Signal box • Seen in films 'The Land Girls' and 'A Hard Day's Night' • Country Walks • TA4 4PA

Bishops Lydeard - Gauge Museum • Model Railways • Signal box • Water tower • Free Car park Nearby Quantock Brewery & Historic Mill • TA4 3RU

Our History

The history of the West Somerset Railway is a tale of two halves. First opened in 1862 as far as Watchet, it was only later in 1874 that trade and Victorian tourism took the line further to Minehead via Washford and Blue Anchor Bay. For almost a century trains ran to the Somerset coast from Taunton and elsewhere on the national network until closure in 1971.

Just five years later, passionate locals and enthusiasts were weeding the track bed and sprucing up the line, bit by bit from Minehead, back towards Taunton. Our preserved line finally got back to Bishops Lydeard in 1979 giving visitors to the area England's longest heritage railway to enjoy.

Our Locomotives

Period steam and diesel locomotives bring authenticity to your West Somerset journey. Our steam engines represent the historic GWR (later BR WR), with 'Large Prairie' 5199 dating from 1934 and 7828 Odney Manor later in 1950. 7822 Foxcote Manor will also remain with us until 2026 and 9466 will join us this year. Our GWR-inspired 'Mogul' 9351 was converted from a 1934 engine by our loco dept and rolled out to the public for the first time in 2004. The 1960s diesels, including impressive Class 35 'Hymeks' and faithful Class 33 'Cromptons' from the DEPG at Williton, assist our running during busy periods and for special events like railway galas, where other Diesel locomotives like 'Teddy Bear' D9526 may also be seen. Pride of the Diesel fleet is D1010 Western Campaigner, currently undergoing restoration for which funds are being raised.

Shopping & Eating

Minehead
Turntable Café - Licenced cafe serving hot drinks, light lunches, cakes and snacks.

Buffer Stop Shop - Souvenirs, WSR merchandise, clothing and toys collectables.

Bishops Lydeard
Whistle Stop Café - Café serving hot drinks and snacks.

Bishops Lydeard Shop - Souvenirs, WSR Merchandise, model railways, collectables and more.

Intermediate Stations
Some stations have a small food or gift offering, please check the website for further information. www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk

Images - Stuart Nelhams, Steve Cockram, Mike Lanning, Jack Boskett, Lee Robbins, Tom Gulliford, Julia Amies-Green, Liam Hebidtch, Rachel Thresher, Don Wood and WSR Heritage Trust.
All details correct at time of print, please check www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk

WEST SOMERSET RAILWAY

England's longest Heritage Railway



2023 Information

www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk



Buy a WSR rover ticket and get 10% off your ticket at Lynton and Barnstaple Railway within 30 days of travel on production of a valid ticket.

Interested in volunteering?

Did you know there are around 800 volunteers, we have a wide range of different roles across departments from footplate crew to our events volunteers!

Please contact volunteers@wsrail.net for more information or call us on 01643 704996.

Calendar

March						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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27	28	29	30	31		

April						
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July						
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August						
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September						
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October						
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November						
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December						
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Coloured dates above show our operating dates, purple and green represent our special events. Please refer to our website for current timetable and special event information. Printed timetables will be available from our stations when you travel with us.

Special Events



Eggstravaganza 1st - 16th April

Easter fun arrives at the WSR for two weeks with our farmyard trail plus special farmyard visitors over the Easter weekend. See online for more details.



Spring Steam Spectacular 28th April - 1st May

A four day event celebrating all things steam, featuring our homefleet and guest locos.



Summer Diesel Festival 8th - 10th June

Three days celebrating our diesel homefleet and guest locos, with an intense timetable.



Sixties Weekend 8th - 9th July

Join us for a musical weekend celebrating all things 1960s from The Beatles to go-go boots.



Summertime Fun 22nd July - 31st Aug

A programme of children's activities throughout the summer break. Look online for more details.



Forties Weekend 9th - 10th Sept

A weekend celebrating the sights and sounds of the 1940s. Featuring costumed performers and an evening dance.



Witches & Wizards 21st - 29th Oct

Join us for a spooktacular week, with our magical trail and much more.



Murder Mystery Trains

Check website for dates

Annual Pass

The Annual Pass is a brilliant way to visit the West Somerset Railway as many times as you like throughout the season on our standard red, blue and yellow timetabled running days. Our passes are valid for a period of 12 months from the date of issue. As an annual pass holder, you are entitled to 10% discount in our gift shops at Minehead and Bishops Lydeard.

Individual Adult Pass: £120
Additional Individual Young Person Pass (5-15 years): £60
Family Pass (2 A & 2 YP): £300
Family Pass (1 A & 2 YP): £200

If you have purchased a travel ticket, why not upgrade to an annual pass? You can do this within 7 days of the initial date of travel. This must be completed in person at the Minehead Information Office in order that the cost of the ticket can be deducted from the annual pass total. This upgrade cannot be redeemed online. Please see our website for further information. Terms and conditions apply.

Catering

Fish and Chip Specials

April 7th & 19th, May 7th, 17th & 24th, 15th & 29th, July 6th, 20th & 30th, August 20th, September 7th & 21st, October 1st, 11th & 18th

Cheese and Cider Specials

June 7th & 25th, July 2nd & 13th, August 28th, September 3rd, 14th, 17th & 28th, October 4th & 15th
All Catering specials include a Cream Tea & bottled drink



Quantock Belle Dining train

The Quantock Belle offers a journey through West Somerset on board our premium dining coaches, with freshly cooked local food prepared by our 2023 resident chef, Sam Le Roux. www.samsfresh.co.uk

A dedicated volunteer team, serve you at your table, presenting high quality, local menus and drinks from the on-board bar car. It's perfect for celebrating special occasions, treating loved ones or simply experiencing our 20-mile railway line in an alternative setting.

Tables are limited on this popular service and tables must be booked in advance.

Sunday Lunches - 19th March, 2nd & 23rd April, 21st May, 4th & 18th June, 9th & 23rd July, 13th August, 10th & 17th September, 8th & 22nd October.

Evening services - 24th June, 29th July, 19th August, 23rd September.

Plan your visit

All aboard England's longest heritage railway! Our rural Somerset branch line extends to over 20 miles from Bishops Lydeard (near Taunton) to the seaside town of Minehead. Along the way are 8 more picturesque stations, from Crowcombe Heathfield at the foot of the Quantock Hills, to the harbour town of Watchet and Blue Anchor with its views across the Bristol Channel to south Wales.



How to find us

By Road - Bishops Lydeard Station (TA4 3RU) is on the A358, west of Taunton with a large car park (height restriction 2.1m). Follow the brown WSR signs from M5 J25 or J26.

By Bus - Buses of Somerset number 28 serves Bishops Lydeard regularly from Taunton town centre and railway station.

By Coach or Minibus - Free Parking is available at Bishops Lydeard for larger vehicles. Parking is also available near Minehead Station.

Tickets are available to book in advance from our website www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk Or call 01643 704996 or email info@wsrail.net for enquiries.